more than 2000 castes/communities in the Central List of OBCs for different States/UTs.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The Government has been releasing funds under the schemes for economic and educational development of OBCs through various States/ UTs as per year-wise budget allocation:—

(i) Pre-matric Scholarship for OBCs

(ii) Post-matric Scholarship for OBCs

(iii) Hostel for OBCs Boys and Girls.

(iv) Pre-matric coaching for OBC students

(v) Aid to Voluntary Organizations for providing vocational training to OBC beneficiaries to start, income generating activities on their own or get gainfully employed in some sector or the other

(vi) Scheme for concessional finance through National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation.

(f) Does not arise.

Implementation of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act, 2006

2236. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had set up a Committee to frame rules for implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional F orest Dwellers Act, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had decided to develop over 2,700 forest villages; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBALAFFAIRS (SHRI PR. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has constituted a Technical Support Group on 12.2.2007 for framing the draft Rules for carrying out the provisions

of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, The.Technical Suport Group is headed by Shri S.R. Sankaran, retired Secretary (Rural Development), Government of India and consists of experts from various fields, such as environment, forests, wildlife, anthropology, tribal welfare, legal, representatives of certain States and concerned Central Ministries/Departments. The Group has been asked to prepare the draft rules within a period of 3 months from the date of constitution of the Group.

(c) and (d): During the 10th Five Year Plan, Rs. 450 crore was allocated to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the development of forest villages under Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan (SCA to TSP). There are 2,474 forest villages/ habitations (reduced from the original 2,690) spread over 12 States (Reduced from the original 13 States). The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has approved proposals covering 2,179 forest villages in 10 States and also released Rs. 32276.46 lakh as on date. Under the programme, infrastructure work relating to basic services and facilities *viz.* approach roads, healthcare, primary education, minor irrigation, rainwater harvesting, drinking water, sanitation, community halls, etc. and activities related to livelihood are taken up for implementation.

Schemes for welfare of tribals

2237. DR. MAM. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the Central share of each scheme sponsored by Government for the welfare of tribals;

(b) whether Government have received any request from State Governments, where tribals predominantly live, to increase the Central share;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PR. KYNDIAH): (a) and (d) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides assistance under various schemes/ programmes for the socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes.